United Nations A/C.2/67/SR.32

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session

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Summary record of the 32nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 30 November 2012, at 11.30 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Talbot ..... (Guyana)

Contents

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (*continued*)

(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (continued)

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (*continued*)

Agenda item 24: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (*continued*)

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12-62168 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.40 a.m.

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.4 and L.46)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.46: International Day of Forests

1. **The Chair** drew attention to the draft resolution, submitted by Ms. Hodžić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Rapporteur of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.4. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

2. **Mr. Devanlay** (Observer for the European Union) said that while the European Union would join the consensus on the draft resolution, its member States wished to reiterate that the proclamation of international days, years and decades must be consistent with the guidelines set out by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1980/67 and subsequently supported by the General Assembly in its resolutions 53/199 and 61/185. The European Union would defend those guidelines in future discussions, in support of the cost-effectiveness and revitalization of the General Assembly.

3. **Ms. Montel** (France) drew attention to a discrepancy in the title of the French-language version of the draft resolution.

4. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.46 was adopted.*

5. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.4 was withdrawn.*

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.18 and L.45)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.45: Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

6. **The Chair** drew attention to the draft resolution, submitted by Ms. Hodžić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Rapporteur of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations on *draft* resolution A/C.2/67/L.18. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

7. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.45 was adopted.*

8. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.18 was withdrawn.*

(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.6 and L.47)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.47: International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon

9. **The Chair** drew attention to the draft resolution, submitted by Ms. Hodžić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Rapporteur of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.6. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

10. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.47 was adopted.*

11. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.6 was withdrawn.*

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.17 and L.49)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.49: Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

12. **The Chair** drew attention to the draft resolution, submitted by Ms. Hodžić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Rapporteur of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.17. She took it that the Committee was prepared to waive the 24-hour provision under rule 120 of the rules of procedure in order to proceed with action on the draft resolution. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

13. **Ms. Mathis** (France) said that her delegation had not had an opportunity to review the French version of the draft resolution for discrepancies.

14. **Mr. Pfaffernoschke** (Germany), facilitator of the informal consultations on the draft resolution, said that in the third preambular paragraph, the word "striving" should replace the word "efforts". In addition, in the fourth preambular paragraph, the word "and" should be

inserted between the words "recurrent" and "long", and, in paragraph 4, the phrase "development agenda beyond 2015" should be changed to read "post-2015 development agenda".

15. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.49, as orally amended, was adopted.*

16. **Ms. Robl** (United States of America) said that the United States was an active supporter of efforts to reduce land degradation and implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Her delegation had raised concerns over use of the term "land-degradation-neutral world" in the draft resolution, and wished to stress the voluntary nature of national-level engagement with the issue of land degradation, whether through initiatives related to the Convention or other mechanisms.

17. **Mr. Egerton** (Observer for the World Meteorological Organization(WMO)) said that, given the concerns about climate change, together with the projected increases in the intensity of droughts and the virtually global lack of drought preparedness, the time was ripe for Member States to develop proactive and risk-based national drought policies. In that regard, WMO welcomed the reference in the draft resolution to the High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy, to be held from 11 to 15 March 2013, which was being organized on the basis of a recommendation made at the Sixteenth World Meteorological Congress, which had been held from 15 May to 3 June 2011.

18. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.17 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 24: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.30/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.30/Rev.1: Promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection

19. **The Chair** drew attention to the draft resolution, which had no programme budget implications.

20. **Mr. Iziraren** (Morocco), speaking as the main sponsor of the draft resolution, said that, in addition to the countries listed in the document, Afghanistan, Andorra, Australia, Bahrain, El Salvador, Jamaica, Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Qatar, Solomon Islands, Sweden, Togo and Turkmenistan had joined the list of sponsors.

21. **The Chair** said that Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, the Niger, the Republic of Moldova and Yemen had also joined the list of sponsors.

22. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.30/Rev.1 was adopted.*

23. **Mr. Iziraren** (Morocco) said that the international community's efforts to promote ecotourism would help to create jobs, reduce poverty and promote sustainable development, thereby strengthening the rule of law and protection of the environment.

24. **Mr. Rahman** (Observer for the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)) welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution, in particular the references made to UNWTO and other United Nations agencies and programmes, demonstrating the confidence Member States placed in their efforts to promote sustainable tourism. Recalling that paragraph 20 contained a request for the Secretary-General to submit, in collaboration with UNWTO, a report on the implementation of the draft resolution, he stressed that the quality of the report would depend on Member States' timely responses to requests for substantive inputs.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.

United Nations A/C.2/67/SR.33

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session

Official Records

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2 January 2013

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 33rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 5 December 2012, at 11.30 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Stefanile (Vice-Chair) ..... (Italy)

Contents

Agenda item 22: Globalization and interdependence (continued)

(a) Globalization and interdependence (continued)

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (continued)

(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (continued)

(g) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth special session (continued)

(i) Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy (continued)

Agenda item 23: Groups of countries in special situations (continued)

(a) Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (continued)

Agenda item 24: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (continued)

(b) Industrial development cooperation (continued)

Agenda item 26: Agriculture development and food security (continued)

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12-62885 (E)

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In the absence of Mr. Talbot (Guyana), Mr. Stefanile (Italy), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 11.50 a.m.

Agenda item 22: Globalization and interdependence *(continued)*

(a) Globalization and interdependence *(continued)* (A/C.2/67/L.12/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.12/Rev.1: Promoting transparency, participation and accountability in fiscal policies

1. **Mr. Favero** (Brazil), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.12/Rev.1, said that the draft was based on the principles promoted by the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency, which were central to the voluntary and non-mandatory nature of the draft resolution and its respect for the legal and regulatory characteristics of each country, be it developed or developing. Throughout the negotiations, all parties had sought to raise awareness of the issue by promoting information and sharing domestic experiences related to fiscal transparency. It was hoped that, in future, the United Nations could act as a forum for sharing best practices and for voluntary cooperation from those countries and stakeholders that were willing to share enhanced public management practices. Transparency and social participation were key to the promotion of democratic governance; strengthening the channels of interaction between government and society was crucial to rendering government more efficient, accountable, effective, transparent and legitimate, particularly through management and budgetary planning. The initiative had been co-sponsored by a considerable number of delegations and he invited those who had not yet joined the list of co-sponsors to do so before the Committee took action on the draft resolution.

2. **The Chair** noted that Australia, Canada, Japan, Nigeria and Sri Lanka also wished to sponsor the draft resolution.

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(a) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction *(continued)* (A/C.2/67/L.16 and L.50)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.50: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

3. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.50, which had been submitted on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.16. It contained no programme budget implications.

4. **Mr. Laguna Celis** (Mexico) said that the draft resolution was important because it called for a Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, where it was hoped that a framework for disaster risk reduction would be adopted to succeed the Hyogo Framework for Action. In turn, it was hoped that this would help to mainstream the issue of disaster risk reduction in the United Nations development agenda.

5. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.50 was adopted.*

6. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.16 was withdrawn.*

(g) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth special session *(continued)* (A/C.2/67/L.21 and L.44)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.44: Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth special session and implementation of section IV.C entitled "Environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development" of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

7. **Mr. Laguna Celis** (Mexico) said that he had asked that draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.44 be reissued to accurately reflect the language agreed upon by delegations in the informal consultations, as the draft currently contained a significant number of discrepancies.

8. **The Chair** informed the Committee that the Bureau had acceded to Mr. Laguna Celis' request. It was therefore proposed that action on the draft resolution should be postponed until the Committee's next plenary meeting.

9. *It was so decided.*

(i) Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy *(continued)* (A/C.2/67/L.26 and L.52)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.52: Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

10. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.52, which had been submitted on the basis of informal consultations on

draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.26. It contained no programme budget implications.

11. **Ms. Novák Horňáková** (Czech Republic) said that the titles of the Secretary-General's reports should be added to footnote 7. The second line of paragraph 2 should also be amended to read "to be promoted through all sources of energy". The word "national" should be deleted from paragraph 4, and the word "promoting" deleted from paragraph 5. Paragraph 11 should refer to the "post-2015 development agenda", and the phrase "aimed at" in paragraph 14 should be replaced with "that could result in".

12. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.52, as orally revised, was adopted.*

13. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.26 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 23: Groups of countries in special situations (*continued*)

(a) Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries *(continued)* (A/C.2/67/L.9, L.10, L.51 and L.53)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.53: Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

14. **The Chair** noted that, as a result of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution, delegations needed more time to review those implications and to consult on the content of the statement prepared by the Secretariat in that regard. Therefore, it had been proposed that action on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.53 should be postponed to the Committee's next plenary meeting.

15. *It was so decided.*

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.51: Smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries

16. **The Chair** noted that, as a result of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution, delegations needed more time to review those implications and to consult on the content of the statement prepared by the Secretariat in that regard. Therefore, it had been proposed that action on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.51 should be postponed to the Committee's next plenary meeting.

17. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 24: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (*continued*)

(b) Industrial development cooperation *(continued)* (A/C.2/67/L.32 and L.54)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.54: Industrial development cooperation

18. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.54, which was being submitted by Mr. Islam (Bangladesh), Vice Chair, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.32.

19. **Ms. Francis** (Bahamas) said that paragraph 6 should refer to the "post-2015 development agenda" rather than the "development agenda beyond 2015".

20. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.54, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

21. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.32 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 26: Agriculture development and food security (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.31 and L.48*)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.48: Agriculture development and food security*

22. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.48*, which had been submitted on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.31. It contained no programme budget implications.

23. **Ms. del Castillo** (Dominican Republic) said that draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.48* had been reissued in order to accurately reflect the language agreed upon by delegations in the informal consultations. However, paragraph 34 should also be corrected to read "the post-2015 United Nations development agenda".

24. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.48*, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

25. **Ms. Robl** (United States of America) referred delegations to the statement made by the United States representative at the forty-eighth meeting of the Third Committee with regard to draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.42 on the right to food, as contained in document A/C.3/67/SR.48.

26. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.31 was withdrawn.*

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.

United Nations A/C.2/67/SR.34

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session

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Second Committee

Summary record of the 34th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 7 December 2012, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Talbot ..... (Guyana)

Contents

Agenda item 17: Information and communications technologies for development (*continued*)

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(h) Harmony with Nature (*continued*)

Agenda item 22: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(a) Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

Agenda item 23: Groups of countries in special situations (*continued*)

(a) Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (*continued*)

Agenda item 24: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) (*continued*)

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(g) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth special session (*continued*)

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12-63545 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

Agenda item 17: Information and communications technologies for development (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.35/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.35/Rev.1: Building connectivity through the Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway

1. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

2. **Mr. Aliyev** (Azerbaijan) made a minor oral correction to the draft resolution and said that Afghanistan, Canada, India, Japan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America had become sponsors.

3. **The Chair** announced that Gabon and Guatemala had also joined the sponsors.

4. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.35/Rev.1, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

5. **Mr. Sahakov** (Armenia) said his delegation hoped that the adoption of the draft resolution would promote regional cooperation for the benefit of all stakeholders. The Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway should be open to all interested States and should not create more favourable conditions for those whose aim was to use economic projects as tools for their own political goals.

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.34/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.34/Rev.1: Entrepreneurship for Development

6. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee), reading out a statement of programme budget implications, said that the thematic debate provided for in paragraph 16 of the draft resolution was expected to comprise one morning meeting and possibly an additional afternoon meeting, with interpretation in the six official languages and verbatim record coverage for the plenary meeting or meetings only. Those meetings would be covered by the entitlement of the General Assembly on the understanding that they would not take place in parallel with other meetings of the Assembly. The dates should be determined in consultation with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management.

7. The report of the Secretary-General provided for in paragraph 17 of the draft resolution would add one 8,500-word document in all official languages to the documentation workload of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the corresponding additional requirements in the amount of $50,900 would be included in section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

8. **Ms. Davidovich** (Israel) made minor editorial corrections to the draft resolution and said that Albania, Barbados, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, Dominica, Guyana, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, the Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Norway, Peru, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, the Seychelles, South Sudan, Timor-Leste, Tonga and Zambia had become sponsors.

9. **The Chair** announced that Vanuatu had also become a sponsor.

10. **Mr. Jawhara** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, as in previous years, Israel was attempting to take advantage of the Committee by giving the impression that it was a peace-loving State committed to sustainable development. The occupation authorities wished to draw attention away from their persistent violations of human rights principles and international resolutions. Although the occupying Power had submitted a draft resolution on entrepreneurship for development, it had paralyzed the social and economic life of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan. In the latter, it was violating international law by enacting various projects on Arab land in cooperation with Western companies. It continued to bury toxic waste, uproot trees and destroy properties, thereby preventing the Arab inhabitants from accessing natural resources and water. It had put an end to an arrangement, negotiated through the International Committee of the Red Cross, which had made it possible for apples farmed in the occupied Syrian Golan to be sold in other parts of the Syrian Arab Republic.

11. Only a few days previously, the General Assembly had granted Palestine the status of observer State. The occupation authorities had retaliated immediately by authorizing the construction of 3,000 additional settlement units around the Palestinian

capital, Jerusalem, and withholding Palestinian tax revenue that was needed in order to pay salaries and maintain infrastructure. The Israeli occupiers clearly had no intention of promoting a just and comprehensive peace.

12. By voting against the draft resolution, the Committee would send a strong signal that Israel should comply with international resolutions and end its occupation of Arab territories. Member States that supported Palestinian statehood should also recognize the right of the Palestinian people and the inhabitants of the occupied Syrian Golan to build their own institutions and pursue sustainable development in accordance with the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), "The future we want", contained in annex to General Assembly resolution 66/288.

13. **Mr. Al-Hajri** (Oman), speaking on behalf of the Group of Arab States in explanation of vote before the voting, said that the Israeli occupation continued to prevent the Palestinian people from exercising their right to development, as documented in reports prepared by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) (A/67/91-E/2012/13) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (TD/B/59/2). That situation was strikingly at odds with Israel's claim to promote sustainable development. The Group of Arab States had attempted to introduce some balance to the text, but the proposed changes had been rejected. Its members would therefore vote against the draft resolution.

14. **Mr. Khalil** (Egypt) speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that the draft resolution focused excessively on national policies for entrepreneurship, ignoring the need for a conducive international environment. Developing countries could not rely solely on the domestic market; they needed an open multilateral trading system complemented by technology transfer and capacity-building. Moreover, the draft resolution did not take into consideration the ESCWA and UNCTAD reports, which demonstrated that the Israeli occupation was the principal obstacle to the development of the Palestinian economy; the land available for agriculture was being steadily reduced and the blockade on the Gaza Strip prevented the inhabitants from engaging in trade. In view of the subject of the draft resolution, those realities could not be ignored.

15. His delegation had taken part in the negotiations on the draft in an effort to address those concerns. Some areas of agreement had been found, but other delegations had subsequently reneged on those understandings. His delegation would therefore vote against the draft resolution.

16. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.34/Rev.1.*

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Zambia.

Against:

Algeria, Bahrain, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon,

Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen.

Abstaining:

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, China, Ecuador, Mali, Mauritius, South Africa, Zimbabwe.

17. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.34/Rev.1 was adopted by 129 votes to 31, with 9 abstentions.*

18. **Mr. Kaganda** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his delegation had sponsored the draft resolution because it believed that, given a conducive international environment, entrepreneurship had great potential for the promotion of sustainable development. His Government had always been supportive of the Palestinian cause and was therefore concerned that the goal of the draft resolution had been obscured by regional considerations, setting a dangerous precedent. His delegation hoped that, in future, the Committee would continue to seek consensus as a means to build confidence and resolve issues of an economic, political and social nature in a constructive manner.

19. **Mr. Prosor** (Israel) said that the sponsors and supporters of the draft resolution included nations from all parts of the globe, developing and developed alike. That support reflected a growing awareness that entrepreneurship was a critical driver of development and had a ripple effect; by unlocking minds, it inspired change. Business leaders built teams and instilled confidence. Entrepreneurs were dreamers and risk-takers who dared to change the world and offered developing communities the best hope for breaking the cycle of poverty.

20. Israel and the other sponsors of the draft resolution had hoped for consensus on the draft resolution since every country benefitted from empowering its entrepreneurs. However, the Group of Arab States had announced that it would oppose its adoption even before the negotiations had ended. Few regions could benefit from entrepreneurship more than the Arab world; people across the region had risen up precisely because they demanded better lives, better economies and better governance, as well as an end to rampant corruption, economic stagnation and discrimination against women. The draft resolution represented hope and progress for people across the planet. By opposing it, the representatives of Arab States — like their Governments — had turned their backs on their own people, sending the message that they cared more about petty politics than about human prosperity. The Committee should not allow those delegations to hold back humanity in its pursuit of innovation.

21. Israel's experience showed that each country's greatest natural resource was its people. In just six decades, the State had transitioned from a developing agricultural nation to a start-up high-technology nation with more start-ups per capita than any nation on the planet. Those achievements were a result of close collaboration between business and Government, as well as a culture that rewarded risk-taking, embraced entrepreneurship and encouraged imagination. Stability, prosperity and sustainability depended on the empowerment of every member of society, particularly women and youth. The United Nations should place business creation and growth at the forefront of its development policies; the spark of ingenuity existed in every society.

22. **Mr. Khalil** (Egypt), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the sponsors had shown no sign of flexibility during the negotiations and the Group of Arab States had determined its position only after the door to negotiations had been closed. The Group was committed to protecting the interests, dignity, development and right to life of the peoples of the Arab States. If the representative of Israel was concerned for their welfare, he should do everything in his power to alleviate their suffering.

(h) Harmony with Nature (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.37/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.37/Rev.1: Harmony with Nature

23. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

24. **Mr. Quispe** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) made minor editorial corrections to the draft resolution, including, in paragraph 10, replacing the phrase "development agenda beyond 2015" with "post-2015 development agenda".

25. **Mr. Merabet** (Algeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the members of the Group had become sponsors.

26. **The Chair** announced that Georgia and Ukraine had also joined the sponsors.

27. **Ms. Montel** (France) speaking on behalf of the European Union, expressed a reservation regarding the phrase "post-2015 development agenda", which had been introduced unilaterally and did not reflect the text agreed under the no-objection procedure.

28. **Mr. Quispe** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that the correction had been made during the adoption process for the sake of consistency with the other draft resolutions of the Committee.

29. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.37/Rev.1, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

Agenda item 22: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(a) Globalization and interdependence (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.12/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.12/Rev.1: Promoting transparency, participation and accountability in fiscal policies

30. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

31. **Mr. Favero** (Brazil) made a minor editorial correction to the Spanish text of the draft resolution and said that Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States of America had become sponsors.

32. **The Chair** announced that Guatemala, Iceland, Israel and the Republic of Moldova had also joined the sponsors.

33. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.12/Rev.1, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

34. **Mr. Pescheux** (France) said that his delegation had some concerns regarding the French text, which it would communicate separately to the Secretariat.

Agenda item 23: Groups of countries in special situations (*continued*)

(a) Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.9, L.10, L.51 and L.53)

Draft resolutions A/C.2/67/L.9 and L.53: Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

35. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.53, which had been submitted by Mr. Islam (Bangladesh), Vice-Chair, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.9.

36. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee), reading out a statement of programme budget implications, said that the request for documentation contained in paragraph 15 of the draft resolution would add one 8,500-word document in all official languages to the workload of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, which would entail additional requirements in the amount of $50,900 for documentation services in 2014.

37. The expanded mandates called for in paragraphs 20, 21 and 28 would require strengthening the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS). Accordingly, that Office would require a total of 11 new posts — two senior economic affairs officers and one senior programme officer at the P-5 level; two programme officers and one economic affairs officer at the P-4 level; one programme officer, one economic affairs officer and one advocacy and outreach officer at the P-3 level; and one staff assistance and one research assistant at the GS-OL level — under section 10 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 at a total cost of $3,424,600. Non-post resources in the amount of $871,700 would be required for office accommodation, commercial communications, supplies, furniture and equipment related to the establishment of the new posts.

38. Therefore, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, requirements in the amount of $4,347,200, including $50,900 under section 2; $3,512,600 under section 10; and $783,700 under section 29D, would be included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

39. **Mr. Islam** (Bangladesh) said that the phrase "development agenda beyond 2015" in paragraph 24 should be changed to read "post-2015 development agenda".

40. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.53, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

41. **Ms. Robl** (United States of America) said that her delegation shared the goals of the draft resolution and urged the international community to remain focused on the needs of the world's least developed countries, where development gains had been most difficult. She was particularly pleased to note the continued emphasis on the need for a broad consultative process in implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action and appreciated the calls for South-South cooperation.

42. However, the draft resolution also called for the provision of enhanced substantive and technical assistance to the least developed countries in a context that clearly emphasized external assistance flows and institutions, whereas the carefully crafted language of the Istanbul Programme of Action balanced calls for external support with acknowledgement of the importance of establishing national policies and enabling environments that would unlock domestic financing.

43. Furthermore, her delegation regretted that statements of programme budget implications were repeatedly provided at the last minute to the Member States engaged in negotiating draft resolutions; there should be increased transparency on budgetary figures during the negotiation process. Lastly, the draft resolution called for adequate resources for OHRLLS, but the Secretariat's statement went well beyond what was needed to support the draft resolution and the basis for its estimates was questionable as they had not been given adequate consideration by Member States. The Secretariat should re-evaluate its resources and staffing in light of the increasing budgetary constraints faced by Member States; her delegation looked forward to further discussion of the matter in the appropriate forums.

44. **Mr. Djebou** (Benin) said that the adoption of the draft resolution was important for the members of the Group of Least Developed Countries. It was essential for their development partners to meet their commitments and for OHRLLS and the international community to provide support in order to achieve the objective of allowing half of them to graduate to middle-income status by 2020, particularly in light of the substantially increased workload entailed by follow-up to the Istanbul Programme of Action.

45. **Mr. Latriche** (Observer for the European Union) said that the European Union attached great importance to its partnership with the least developed countries and OHRLLS in order to ensure that the United Nations system continued to focus on support for the least developed countries.

46. It was his understanding that the figures given by the Secretariat in its statement of programme budget implications were estimates, presented in accordance with an extensive interpretation of rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. Those estimates did not prejudge the Secretary-General's submission to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. Moreover, some of the estimates could not be considered requirements under the draft resolution. Therefore, the Secretariat's estimates should not be perceived as having been endorsed by Member States.

47. **Mr. Ozaki** (Japan) said that his delegation attached great importance to the sustained and inclusive development of the least developed countries. However, it regretted that the estimates relating to the proposed programme budget had not been issued until the night before the day on which action on the draft resolution was to have been taken, as a result of which its adoption had been delayed; cost estimates should be made available to Member States at the consultation stage of the negotiations.

48. His delegation had many questions and reservations with regard to the Secretariat's statement of programme budget implications, including the basis for its estimates; the costs related to the draft resolution should be absorbed by the Secretariat. The issue of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution should be addressed during consideration of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 in due course and the oral statement by the Secretariat should not be considered binding on Member States.

49. **Mr. Rodriguez Hernández** (Cuba) said that the Second Committee was charged with issuing mandates concerning sustainable development; it was the Fifth Committee that was mandated to examine programme budget implications. Instead of focusing on budgetary

issues, the Committee should address the important development questions concerning the least developed countries.

50. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.9 was withdrawn.*

Draft resolutions A/C.2/67/L.10 and L.51: Smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries

51. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.51, which had been submitted by Mr. Islam (Bangladesh), Vice-Chair, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.10.

52. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee), reading out a statement of programme budget implications, said that the request for documentation contained in paragraph 24 of the draft resolution would add one 8,500-word document in the six official languages to the documentation workload of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management for 2015. Therefore, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, additional requirements in the amount of $50,900 would be included in section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

53. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.51 was adopted.*

54. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.10 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 24: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.11 and L.55)

Draft resolutions A/C.2/67/L.11 and L.55: Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) (*continued*)

55. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.55, which had been submitted by Mr. Islam (Bangladesh), Vice-Chair, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.11. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

56. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.55 was adopted.*

57. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.11 was withdrawn.*

The meeting was suspended at 12.10 p.m. and resumed at 12.55 p.m.

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(g) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth special session (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.21 and A/C.2/67/L.44*)

Draft resolutions A/C.2/67/L.21 and L.44: Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth special session and on the implementation of section IV.C entitled "Environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development" of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development*

58. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.44*, which had been submitted by Ms. Hodžić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Rapporteur, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.21.

59. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee), reading out a statement of programme budget implications, said that, should the draft resolution be adopted, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) proposed to create for the biennium 2014-2015, with a view to its implementation, four posts pursuant to paragraph 4 (a) at an estimated cost of $1,453,900; 26 posts pursuant to paragraph 88 (c) at an estimated cost of $6,018,200; eight posts pursuant to paragraph 88 (d) at an estimated cost of $1,738,400; eight posts pursuant to paragraph 88 (e) at an estimated cost of $2,224,600; 29 posts pursuant to paragraph 88 (f) at an estimated cost of $5,428,100; 22 posts pursuant to paragraph 88 (g) at an estimated cost of $5,851,400; and eight posts pursuant to paragraph 88 (h) at an estimated cost of $1,683,700.

60. A total of $10,286,000 was estimated for the funding of non-post resources associated with the proposed enhanced UNEP secretariat and activities, including recurrent operational costs associated with the established resources; non-recurrent operational costs related to the establishment of new staff; official travel; equipment and supplies; translation of publications into official United Nations languages; enhancement of the Global Environment Outlook process; and capacity-building and access to technology.

61. The total proposed amount of $34,734,300 for the implementation of paragraph 4 (a) of the draft resolution would be included under section 14 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. The financial implications of paragraphs 4 (b) and (c) would be determined once the Governing Council of UNEP had adopted new rules and procedures at its first universal session, to be held in Nairobi in February 2013.

62. **Mr. Laguna** (Mexico) made minor editorial changes to the draft resolution and said that it contained the seeds of implementation of an ambitious package of international environmental governance measures that would strengthen the environmental pillar of sustainable development. It sought to reflect the consensus within the General Assembly that it was necessary to strengthen UNEP and empower its Governing Council to implement all the measures called for in paragraphs 88 (a) to (h) of the Rio+20 outcome document.

63. It also sent a political message: by adopting the draft resolution, the Committee would not be endorsing any specific amount of resources; rather, it would be providing the Secretary-General, the Governing Council of UNEP, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee with guidance as to how to provide secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources to UNEP from the regular budget of the Organization. The resources requirements set out by the Secretariat were merely indicative and would require intergovernmental negotiations in order to determine the final resource and financial implications of the draft resolution.

64. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.44*, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

65. **The Chair** said that as the hour was late, the interpreters would have to leave. He took it that the Committee agreed to continue in English only.

66. *It was so decided.*

67. **Mr. Latriche** (Observer for the European Union) said that the European Union welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution and the decision to upgrade UNEP. It stressed the importance of implementing paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 outcome document and looked forward to the first universal session of the Governing Council of UNEP.

68. It was his understanding that the Secretariat's statement of programme budget implications was based on estimates presented through an overly extensive interpretation of rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. He reiterated the position of the European Union that such considerations would need to be further revised in light of the new mandate entrusted to the Governing Council and that the Secretariat's estimates did not prejudge the Secretary-General's submission of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 to the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee. Therefore, the estimates should not be perceived as having been endorsed by Member States.

69. **Ms. Cousens** (United States of America) said that the reforms agreed at Rio+20 would strengthen the role of UNEP, promote the environmental component of sustainable development and improve coordination on environmental activities in the United Nations system, all of which were welcome improvements. The draft resolution endorsed the decisions contained in the Rio+20 outcome document and took the essential next step of establishing universal membership in the Governing Council of UNEP and empowering the Council to initiate implementation of that document. Her delegation was therefore dismayed by the content of the Secretariat's statement of programme budget implications, which prejudged the decisions of the Governing Council, had been received at a late stage in the negotiations and contained substantial and unexpected requests for resources that were not explained and bore no relation to the draft resolution.

70. Her delegation questioned the basis for those figures as they had not been adequately considered by Member States in any appropriate intergovernmental forum; Member States required a rational examination of resource requirements, not an opaque, unsubstantiated request for significant new resources. The draft resolution mandated the Governing Council as the most appropriate forum for discussing UNEP resource requirements in light of Rio+20. It would therefore fall to the Council to review the proposed programme of work of UNEP and to take decisions on follow-up activities in implementation of the decisions taken at the Conference.

71. The information provided by the Secretariat was only the beginning of what should be a more extensive conversation within the Governing Council, pursuant to paragraph 4 (b) of the draft resolution, based on a

more detailed analysis of planned activities and expected results. Until that time, the Secretariat had no credible basis for its projected resources requirements for the newly expanded mandate of UNEP.

72. **Ms. Onishi** (Japan) said that her delegation was puzzled by the content of the Secretariat's statement in connection with draft resolution L.44* as it gave a very detailed estimate of costs before the new Governing Council of UNEP had had an opportunity to discuss and agree on how to implement elements of the Rio+20 outcome document. Her delegation expected the Secretary-General to respect the provisions of paragraph 5 (a) of the draft resolution, which requested him to reflect in the 2014-2015 biennium budget proposal resources that took into account the proposed revised programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme and the implementation of paragraph 88 (a) to (h) of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, as well as opportunities for increasing the efficient use of resources. The Secretariat's statement of programme budget implications for the draft resolution should in no way prejudge the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015; once that document had been issued, her delegation would consider it carefully and, in so doing, would not be bound by the Secretariat's statement.

73. **Mr. Maksimychev** (Russian Federation) expressed concern that an official meeting was continuing without interpretation into all official languages of the Organization. He hoped that such an occurrence would not be repeated.

74. On the issue of the programme budget implications, his delegation believed that the Secretariat's estimates would be subject to further consultation within the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee.

75. **Ms. Volken** (Switzerland) said that introduction of the principle of universal membership in the Governing Council of UNEP was significant. The first universal session of the Council, to be held in February 2013, would provide an opportunity for fruitful discussion of ways to implement paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 outcome document.

76. Her delegation had taken note of the Secretariat's statement of programme budget implications as required under rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, which would not prejudge discussions in the Governing Council.

77. **Ms. Peterson** (Canada) said that the draft resolution was an important step towards implementation of the decisions taken at Rio+20, which would be further elaborated upon at the first universal session of the Governing Council. However, the Secretariat's statement of programme budget implications did not accurately reflect the decisions taken by Member States during the negotiations; moreover, it prejudged important upcoming discussions among Member States. Her delegation disagreed with several elements of that statement and reserved the right to revisit them in detail in the appropriate forums.

78. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.21 was withdrawn.*

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.

United Nations A/C.2/67/SR.35

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session

Official Records

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Second Committee

Summary record of the 35th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 11 December 2012 at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Talbot ..... (Guyana)

Contents

Agenda item 18: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(c) External debt sustainability and development *(continued)*

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(f) Convention on Biological Diversity (*continued*)

Agenda item 21: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (*continued*)

Agenda item 25: Operational activities for development (*continued*)

(b) South-South cooperation (*continued*)

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12-64251 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 18: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(c) External debt sustainability and development (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.28 and A/C.2/67/L.56)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.56: External debt sustainability and development

1. **Mr. Landveld** (Suriname) drew attention to some revisions to the text. In the twentieth preambular paragraph the words "framework for" should be deleted.

2. **Ms. Camacho** (Mexico) said that she would contact the Secretariat about amendments to be made to the twenty-eighth preambular paragraph of the Spanish version of the text.

3. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

4. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.56, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

5. **Ms. Robl** (United States of America) said that while her delegation welcomed the adoption of the resolution, its tone suggested that efforts to address debt sustainability, particularly among least developed countries, had been inadequate. Her delegation did not interpret the language of the resolution as endorsing that point of view. In fact, as had been confirmed by the World Bank's report on Global Development Finance 2012, developing countries had seen a marked and almost continuous improvement in the sustainability of their external debt, as measured by the ratio of external debt service to export earnings over the past decade. More notable still was the improvement in low-income countries, where the average debt service to export ratio had fallen from 17.2 per cent in 1995 to 4.8 per cent in 2010. The World Bank had attributed that improvement to increased export earnings and debt restructuring together with outright debt relief from official and private creditors in the context of highly indebted poor countries and multilateral debt relief initiatives. The importance of the Debt Sustainability Framework for Low-Income Countries, created by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, in ensuring that those gains were maintained should also be noted.

6. While it was true that some debtors continued to face difficulties in servicing their debts, her delegation underscored the efficacy of current mechanisms in addressing the payment difficulties experienced by debtor countries and saw no credible evidence of the need to create new mechanisms.

7. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.28 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(f) Convention on Biological Diversity (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.27 and A/C.2/67/L.58)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.58: Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development

8. **Mr. Muktamar** (Indonesia) drew attention to a number of editorial corrections to be made to the text. The eleventh preambular paragraph should be amended to read the "report of the tenth session". The words "financial, human and technical" in the second line of paragraph 5 should be put in brackets and place after "resources". The sixth line of that paragraph should be amended to read "welcomes the decision by parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its eleventh meeting" with a footnote inserted after the word "decision" that should read: "Decision XI/4 of the eleventh Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity: Review of implementation of the strategy for resource mobilization, including the establishment of targets", as had been agreed during the negotiations. The final lines of paragraph 13 should be modified to read: "the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Technology Transfer and Scientific and Technological Cooperation as well as of decision XI/2 entitled 'Review of progress in implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and related capacity-building support to parties';". Lastly, in paragraphs 5 and 13, there should be no footnotes attached.

9. **The Chair** noted that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

10. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.58, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

11. **Ms. Robl** (United States of America) said that as her delegation firmly supported the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity it had chosen to join the consensus on the resolution. However, it understood that references to Governments, in the

context of encouraging or calling for action, referred to those Governments that were parties to the Convention. As a non-party to the Convention, the United States was not involved in decision-making by the Convention's bodies and was not in a position to welcome all of the outcomes and decisions made by the parties.

12. Moreover, while work under the Convention could do much to further sustainable development, such work was governed by the terms and mandate of the Convention and not by other instruments referred to in the resolution.

13. **Mr. Mamani** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that his delegation was concerned by the commodification of biodiversity and nature, a business that would benefit a few while the majority remained poor. In that connection, he reiterated the position taken by his delegation at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Hyderabad, India, from 8 to 19 October 2012.

14. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.27 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 21: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.22 and A/C.2/67/L.59)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.59: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat)

15. **The Chair** said that as the Secretariat had not yet finalized the programme budget implications of the draft resolution, its consideration would be postponed to the Committee's next plenary meeting.

16. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 25: Operational activities for development (*continued*)

(a) South-South cooperation (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.8 and A/C.2/67/L.57)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.57: South-South cooperation

17. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action of the draft resolution, which was being submitted by Mr. Mero (United Republic of Tanzania), Vice-Chair, on the basis of informal consultations on document A/C.2/67/L.8. He took it that the Committee agreed to waive the relevant provision of rule 120 of the rules of procedure.

18. *It was so decided.*

19. **Mr. Mugodo** (Kenya) said that paragraph 5 should end after the phrase "fragmentation of financing arrangements", the final three lines should therefore be deleted.

20. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

21. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.57, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

22. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.8 was withdrawn.*

The meeting rose at 3.40 p.m.

United Nations A/C.2/67/SR.36

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session

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Second Committee

Summary record of the 36th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 12 December 2012, at 4 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Talbot ..... (Guyana)

Contents

Agenda item 17: Information and communications technologies for development (*continued*)

Agenda item 18: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(a) International trade and development (*continued*)

Agenda item 21: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (*continued*)

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12-64550 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 4.25 p.m.

Agenda item 17: Information and communications technologies for development (*continued*) (A67/207; A/C.2/67/L.36 and A/C.2/67/L.61)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.61: Information and communications technologies for development

1. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on the draft resolution, submitted by Mr. Mero (United Republic of Tanzania), Vice-Chair of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.36. He took it that the Committee agreed to waive the 24-hour provision under rule 120 of the rules of procedure. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

2. **Ms. Klausa** (Poland), speaking in her capacity as facilitator of the informal consultations, said that in the ninth preambular paragraph the words "set" and "make" should be replaced by "sets" and "makes"; in the thirtieth preambular paragraph the names of the host countries Lithuania, Kenya and Azerbaijan should be inserted after their respective capitals; in the thirty-second preambular paragraph the acronyms EuroDIG, AMI and TASIM should be inserted after the names of the projects to which they referred; in the sixth line of paragraph 20 a new sentence should begin after the word "mandate", reading "When convening the working group, the Chair should also take into consideration the already scheduled meetings on the CSTD's calendar. The working group should report to the Commission at its seventeenth session, in 2014, as an input to the overall review of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society"; and in paragraph 21, a comma should be inserted after the word "Governments" and the comma after the word "namely" should be removed.

3. **The Chair** asked the facilitator whether her intention was also to add the name of the host country Greece after the name of its capital in the thirtieth preambular paragraph.

4. **Ms. Klausa** (Poland), speaking in her capacity as facilitator of the informal consultations, replied that that was the intention.

5. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.61, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

6. **Mr. Latriche** (Observer for the European Union) said that information and communications technologies gave the international community new opportunities to build an inclusive information society and achieve development goals. Access to the Internet was essential to development. His delegation therefore called on stakeholders to contribute actively to the 2014-2015 review of the World Summit on the Information Society. It reaffirmed its support for multi-stakeholder Internet governance and the Internet Governance Forum, which had brought together business, civil society, Governments, international organizations, parliamentarians, the technical community and academic experts to exchange views and best practice. It looked forward to engaging actively in the working group on enhanced cooperation referred to in the draft resolution. It regretted the failure to include in the text a reference to the need to protect human rights online, as affirmed in Human Rights Council resolution 20/8.

7. **Mr. Tawlah** (Saudi Arabia) said that his delegation had hoped that the working group on enhanced cooperation would be established in line with the 2005 Tunis Agenda for the Information Society. The working group should be unlimited in scope and all countries should consult stakeholders as required. The working group should discuss how to implement enhanced cooperation, not merely examine the mandate of the World Summit.

8. **Mr. Jaiswal** (India) said that his delegation welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus but felt that, as the international community started implementing the agenda approved at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), the text could have better captured the increasing relevance of information and communications technologies to development.

9. During the negotiations on the draft resolution, there had been an understanding that a high-level event led the by the General Assembly would be convened on the World Summit review. His delegation therefore looked forward to discussions on that event at the current General Assembly session; those discussions should be concluded before 2013 as called for in the draft resolution. Review processes undertaken by international organizations were valuable and should contribute to the World Summit review.

10. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.36 was withdrawn.*

11. *The Committee took note of the note of the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on "Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system" (A/67/207).*

Agenda item 18: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(a) International trade and development (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.23 and A/C.2/67/L.60)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.60: International trade and development

12. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on the draft resolution, submitted by Mr. Stefanile (Italy), Vice-Chair of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.23. He took it that the Committee agreed to waive the 24-hour provision under rule 120 of the rules of procedure. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

13. **Mr. Iziraren** (Morocco), speaking in his capacity as facilitator of the informal consultations, said that the draft resolution emphasized convergence on the political message regarding international trade and development. In the eighth preambular paragraph, the word "Rio+20" should be inserted after "United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development" and the initial letter of each word in the title of the Conference's outcome document should be capitalized; in paragraph 3 "the sustainable economic development of least developed countries" should be replaced by "least developed countries' sustainable economic development"; and in paragraph 10 the text following "Net Food-importing Developing Countries" should be deleted.

14. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.60, as corrected, was adopted.*

15. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.23 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 21: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.22 and A/C.2/67/L.59)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.59: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

16. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on the draft resolution, submitted by Ms. Hodžić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Rapporteur of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations facilitated by Ms. Fassio Canuto (Italy) on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.22.

17. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee), making an oral statement in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure, said that pursuant to paragraph 9(b) of the draft resolution the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee would add six meetings with interpretation in the official languages to the workload of the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management, entailing additional requirements of $66,600 in 2014, while the request for documentation would add the translation of 12 documents into the official languages and report-writing services, entailing additional requirements of $511,600.

18. Pursuant to paragraph 9(c), the second Preparatory Committee meeting would add 10 meetings with interpretation in the official languages to the workload of the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management, entailing additional requirements of $334,700 in 2015, while the request for documentation would add the translation of eight documents into the official languages and report-writing services, entailing additional requirements of $150,100.

19. Pursuant to paragraphs 9(d) and 10, a statement on the conference services required for the third Preparatory Committee meeting and the Habitat II Conference itself would be submitted when the arrangements for those meetings were clearer.

20. Pursuant to paragraph 14, the Secretary-General would provide information regarding the non-conference services required for the preparatory process and the Conference itself once the UN-Habitat Governing Council took a decision on the proposal of the Secretary-General of the Conference, to be submitted to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session.

21. If the General Assembly adopted the resolution, therefore, additional resources of $1,063,000 would be required for conference services under Section 2 of the 2014-2015 programme budget.

22. **Ms. Hodžić** (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Rapporteur of the Committee, said that in the fifth preambular paragraph the words "inter alia" should be inserted after "such as"; the words "Habitat III" should be inserted at the end of the eleventh preambular paragraph; the second and third lines of paragraph 6 should be corrected to "assessing accomplishments to date, addressing poverty and identifying and addressing new and emerging challenges"; in paragraph 9, the words "Decides, while remaining" should be deleted from the start of the paragraph and the word "decides" should be inserted before "that", the last word of the paragraph; in the seventh line of paragraph 11, the word "the" should be deleted before the words "improved participation of local authorities"; in the tenth preambular paragraph, the dates of the sixth session of the World Urban Forum should be changed to "from 1 to 6 September 2012"; in paragraph 6, footnote reference 3 should be changed to footnote reference 5 and footnote reference 4 should be changed to footnote reference 3.

23. **Mr. Laguna** (Mexico) asked, in the Spanish text, in paragraph 6(a), for "nuevas dificultades" to be deleted and replaced by "nuevos retos" and, in paragraph 6(b), for "nuevo programa urbano" to be deleted and replaced with "Nueva Agenda Urbana".

24. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.59, as corrected, was adopted.*

25. **Ms. Kurultay** (Turkey) said that his Government would be honoured to host the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) in 2016.

26. **Ms. Nemroff** (United States of America) said that her delegation welcomed the support in the draft resolution for the ongoing review of UN-Habitat to improve transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness, but was disappointed that the budget estimates had once again been provided to the Member States at the last minute rather than in a transparent way during the negotiations. The extensive, unexpected and unsubstantiated resources requested in the Secretariat's oral statement ran counter to the spirit of the draft resolution, which called for the efficient use of resources at the planning stage. Her delegation called on the Secretariat to provide a credible estimate based on the Conference arrangements set out in the text. It nevertheless supported the draft resolution.

27. **Mr. Devanlay** (Observer for the European Union) said that his delegation reiterated the importance of the urban agenda both through the UN-Habitat secretariat and in the lead-up to Habitat III. It understood that the oral statement of programme budget implications presented before the adoption of the draft resolution contained estimates resulting from an overly broad interpretation of rule 153 of the General Assembly rules of procedure. Those estimates were subject to revision following the Secretary-General's submission of the proposed 2014-2015 budget to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee. His delegation believed that some of the estimates could not be considered requirements under the draft resolution. The estimates should not be perceived as having been endorsed by the Member States. Increased transparency regarding budgetary figures should be provided during rather than after negotiations on draft resolutions.

28. **Ms. Peterson** (Canada) said that his delegation was pleased to join the consensus on the draft resolution but was concerned by the oral statement of programme budget implications, which did not reflect the decisions taken by Member States in the draft resolution. It was disappointed by the lack of budgetary clarity from the Secretariat during the informal consultations. The figures in the oral statement could be considered only as estimates and were subject to revision following discussion in the Fifth Committee. They should not be perceived as having been endorsed by the Member States.

29, **Mr. Imanishi** (Japan) said that his delegation was pleased to join the consensus on the draft resolution but regretted that the information regarding costs had not been made available to the Member States during the consultations. His delegation understood that the figures in the statement were only estimates subject to revision following the Secretary-General's submission of the proposed 2014-2015 programme budget to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee, and should not be perceived as having been endorsed by the Member States. In considering the proposed 2014-2015 programme budget, his delegation would not be bound by the oral statement.

30. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67L.22 was withdrawn.*

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.

United Nations A/C.2/67/SR.37

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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 13 December 2012, at 10.30 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Talbot ..... (Guyana)

Contents

Agenda item 19: Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference (*continued*)

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12-64737 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

Agenda item 19: Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.29 and L.63)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.63: Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

1. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.63, which was being submitted by Mr. Stefanile (Italy) on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.29. He took it that the Committee was prepared to waive the 24-hour requirement under rule 120 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

2. *It was so decided.*

3. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

4. **Ms. Luna** (Mexico), facilitator, introduced minor editorial corrections to the draft text.

5. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.63, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

6. **Mr. Busuttil** (Observer for the European Union) said that the European Union remained committed to the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development. The Union and its States members were the largest provider of aid for the realization of the internationally agreed development goals. Despite the challenging economic situation, they had reaffirmed their commitment to allocate 0.7 per cent of gross national income to official development assistance.

7. The European Union attached great importance to the principles of aid effectiveness as reaffirmed most recently at the fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 29 November to 1 December 2011. Those principles formed the basis of its efforts to improve accountability and aid effectiveness.

8. Approaches to mobilizing financing for development should evolve in line with recent changes in the global aid architecture. The European Union therefore welcomed the reference in paragraph 32 of the resolution to the need to reinforce coherence and coordination and to avoid duplication of efforts. It looked forward to informal consultations with a view to taking a final decision on the need to hold a follow-up conference on financing for development by the end of 2013.

9. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.29 was withdrawn.*

The meeting rose at 11 a.m.